

## ALIEN LAND LAW.

## The Mass Meeting of Citizens Held Last Night.

## THE RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED.

The Speeches Made Upon the Question by Those Present—The Committee of Five to Be Appointed by the Chairman.

A mass meeting of the business men of this city was held last night in the Chamber of Commerce, for the purpose of discussing the alien land law, and to devise, if possible, some means looking to the repeal of such law or to the amending of it in such a way as to remove the harsh features of it.

In the absence of Maj. Van Zandt, the president of the chamber of commerce, J. J. Roche called the meeting to order and was afterwards made permanent chairman. He stated the object of the meeting.

T. B. Burbridge, one of the committee, that was appointed at a recent meeting of the Chamber of Commerce to draft resolutions on this subject, arose and read the following:

Whereas, the Dallas Board of Trade has formulated and passed the following resolutions at their meeting of June 22nd:

Whereas, this Board of Trade, in common with a very large portion of the business men and property owners of this city, believe that the operation of what is known as the alien land law, and the effect of the same, will prove most disastrous to every interest in the state; and

Whereas, these disastrous effects can only be prevented by the prompt adoption of the legislature in repealing or amending said law; and

Whereas, it is necessary for the governor to name in his call for an extra session all subjects or questions which can be acted on; and

Whereas, it is understood, or expected, that a call for an extra session will soon be made; be it

Resolved, 1. That the president of this Board of Trade appoint a committee of seven prominent citizens, who are hereby requested to call personally upon his excellency, Governor Hogg, and urge upon him to embrace in any call he may make for an extra session of the legislature the question of repealing or amending the alien land law, and to urge upon him to call for an extra session of the legislature on this subject.

Resolved, 2. That all other Boards of Trade, Chambers of Commerce and other such business organizations in the various cities and towns in Texas, be requested to take similar action promptly by appointing committees for the same purpose.

Resolved, 3. That a copy of these resolutions be furnished Governor Hogg and all Boards of Trade and Chambers of Commerce in the state.

Now, therefore be it resolved by this Chamber of Commerce and meeting of citizens assembled, that the sentiment expressed in said resolution and recommendation that the president of this Chamber appoint a committee of five citizens to co-operate with like committees from other Chambers of Commerce and Boards of Trade in bringing this matter to the attention of his excellency, Governor Hogg.

After the reading of the resolutions Mr. Burbridge said that he believed the fact would object to an alien land law if properly framed and carried out, but that, on the other hand, no one could favor such a law as strikes at the validity of titles and whose tendency is to deprive the state of the present best interests of Texas, that the purpose in introducing the resolutions was to show that the citizens of Fort Worth are in sympathy with the views expressed by the Chamber of Commerce of Dallas. Further, that the co-operation of this Board of Trade with others of the state would do most toward gaining the object in view.

T. J. Hurley next spoke on the subject and said that the law is undoubtedly unconstitutional, inasmuch as this country had treaties with Great Britain and other countries which guarantee the protection of citizens of those countries and also their interest; that the passage of this law was a direct violation of a national treaty, and that no state was warranted in passing a law that violated one made by the national government. He then offered the following resolution:

Whereas, it is possible to reach a decision from the supreme court before the next meeting of the legislature of Texas, which decision if favorable will not require that any action be asked from the legislature; therefore, be it

Resolved, that a committee of conference, consisting of one person from each Chamber of Commerce and Board of Trade in the state of Texas be appointed, said committee to bring a suit before the supreme court to test the constitutionality of the law, and thus end argument and discussion on the subject.

J. J. Scott favored the resolution presented by Mr. Hurley, believing it to be the most expedient way of disposing of the law, that the suit be passed on the day or two before the adjournment of the legislature when everything was unsettled at the capital and every one wished to get away, and consequently that the bill would have been passed, but the rules were suspended and the law passed. He believed that had the legislature had time to consider the matter very few votes would have been cast, and that calmer consideration would induce them to vote for its repeal. He thought that Governor Hogg would decline to call the special session, but that by questioning a special session the sense of the people on the subject would be manifested, and the result would be salutary.

Mr. Swaine, the representative of Tarrant county in the legislature, and who worked for the bill, was present and was talked upon. Mr. Swaine said that he had been condemned by many of his friends and the press of the city for voting for the alien land bill; that his vote was cast conscientiously; that he represented a large constituency and that the few men before him were mostly lenders and borrowers; but that a large majority of his people, the masses were neither borrowers or lenders and that nine-tenths of them comprise this class. He believed that five-sixths of the people of his county were in favor of the law as it stands and that one-sixth were probably in favor of a modification, but that nearly all were in favor of the interests of Tarrant county and for Texas, and that time would reveal the good effects it would have on the state. He then mildly suggested that if any change was made those clamoring for it would have their change through the very members of the legislature whom they were condemning. The passage of the bill was not intended to work against the interests of the companies in the state, and if looked at in the right way would not be taken by the mortgage companies and the owners finally becoming tenants, and that is not what is wanted. Mr. Swaine further remarked that he was not a candidate for re-election, but if he had his course to go over again he would pursue the same one; that he thought he had done his duty in voting for the bill and that one of the proudest moments of his life was when Tex-

## THE INVESTIGATION.

## Judge McCord's Cross-Examination Elicits Nothing New.

## SENATOR CHILTON ON STAND.

He Denies that He Sent the Telegram to Woldert at Austin, Asking Him to Use His Influence with McCord. Wanted Two Masters.

Special to the Gazette.

GALVESTON, Tex., June 22.—The committee investigating the International receivership resumed its labors at 10 o'clock today. The cross-examination by Judge McCord, who was withdrawn at the hour of adjournment yesterday to allow McCord to testify was resumed and continued at some length, developing no facts but which the judge had already testified to. Judge McCord's testimony in its entirety was a statement of all his actions, legal and otherwise, in connection with the receivership, and he testified like a man who challenged the closest scrutiny into his official duties, and was not afraid of the result.

At the conclusion of Judge McCord's testimony, United States Senator Horace Chilton was called and sworn, and interrogated by Judge McCord. Chilton gave a full, lucid history of the litigation prior to and after the appointment of the receivers. His testimony was in line with what has heretofore been given, and where it differed it was of material importance. He testified with great deliberation, as if carefully weighing the import of every word and with a manifest desire to tell the truth, and to state truth, and accurately described every feature and action involved in the subject under investigation.

Mr. Woldert of the firm of Johnson & Woldert, upon direct examination testified that he was Senator Chilton who had sent the telegram to him at Austin asking him to go to Tyler and use his influence with McCord in the appointment of the receivers.

In reply to Finley's interrogatory, he had sent such a telegram to Woldert, Senator Chilton said he did not send such a telegram. He suggested, however, that Woldert did not want to send the telegram. His reason for suggesting that Johnson and Woldert be notified was not for the purpose, in consequence of their friendly relations with the court, as he had not intended to influence the appointment of receivers, but that in event receivers were under them, if Woldert was on hand appointed, and other positions were filled by him, he would be in a position to influence the judge in his appointment.

Woldert was his preference for special master in chancery. He was in favor of special masters in chancery being appointed. He thought that two were necessary, one of whose duty it should be to hold hearings and examine claims at various points, and the other to receive and file and still believes that it would have saved money to the company. He had never at any time since the litigation began denied any fact, and he was in favor of McCord or attempted to influence him in any action in the case except in the appointment of the second receiver when he recommended Judge Duncan, and the court without first taking a receipt from him.

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## BANK BURGLARS.

## Some of the Slick Men in the "Profession."

## THE RELEASE OF NED LYONS.

A Man Who Seem to Rob Simply for the Pleasure of Being a Knave—His Family of the Same Stripes. Recent Arrests.

Columbus, O., has recently enjoyed (if you call it enjoyment) the grandest jail delivery of recent times. Owing to a change in the law allowing commutation for good conduct, several prisoners were discharged as came from the state prison, and at the head of them was the notorious Ned Lyons—the very Napoleon of bank robbers and husband of the scarcely less notorious Sophie Lyons.

It is supposed that this pair rob for the pure love of it, as they are known to have had a good sized fortune in their easy possession more than once. Lyons was born in Manchester, England, in 1839, but got his burglarious education in New York city.

In 1899 he and three others robbed the Ocean bank of New York of over \$10,000 in cash and collaterals, but could not dispose of the latter. In 1870 he assisted in robbing the Waterford (N. Y.) bank of \$12,000, was caught and sent to Sing Sing, but escaped in December, 1872. In 1876 he was caught picking pockets and served a four year's sentence. Only a few months later he was shot almost to pieces while attempting to rob a store at South Woodbury, N. J., and got a light sentence because all the doctors said he would die. But he recovered in good shape.

His wife was a pupil of the notorious Mother Mandelbaum, and when their first child was born Lyons established her in an elegant home on Long Island, with means enough to keep her in good style, but in six months her child

was in the custody of a nurse, and Sophie was back in New York city picking up watches, diamonds and other trifles from such men as she could wheedle. Her son, by the way, is now an accomplished burglar. After being shot several times and serving three terms in various state prisons, Ned Lyons got a five years' sentence in Ohio, but has reduced it to four by "good time." Sophie is still at large, and their three younger children are well provided for.

To balance the books, as it were, the St. Louis police have just run in Watt Jones and George Walsh, with two less distinguished confederates known to the rogues' gallery as John Murphy and John Morgan. All four are among the most accomplished bank snafus in the world, and by their dress, modesty and general deportment easily pass for good and quiet citizens.

Watt Jones, alias Stetson, is the "slickest" of the lot, and was formerly partner of Jim Carroll, "the cleverest bank sneak in the world."

Watt Jones said that Thos. Gravelly, an August, 1892, rescued Carroll from the authorities of East St. Louis by an ingenious stratagem much talked of at the time.